

PORTRAYAL OF A WITCH AS HEROINE THROUGH MALEFICENT CHARACTER IN *MALEFICENT* MOVIE (2014)

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ABSTRACT

Maleficent movie (2014) a movie directed by Robert Stromberg and written by Linda Woolverton. This movie adapted from *Sleeping Beauty* animation version in 1959. *Maleficent* movie tells about the human Kingdom and the Moors Kingdom that have never be peace. This research focused on analyzing a portrayal of a witch as heroine through Maleficent character. The purposes of this research were to analyze kind of witch characteristics portrayed through Maleficent character in *Maleficent* movie, and to analyze Maleficent character portrayed as a heroine in *Maleficent* movie. This research was a qualitative research. This research used two theories. The first is witch theory by Julian Goodare and the second one is hero theory by Kendra Cherry. The results of the research showed, that Maleficent character in *Maleficent* movie (2014) evil and good side. There are four concepts of witch such as demonic, village, *folkloric*, and envisioned witch. *Maleficent* movie goes into the folkloric witch category. There are seventh elements of hero, which Maleficent character as a heroine in *Maleficent* movie. First, people who become heroes tend to be concerned with the well being of others. Second, heroes are good at seeing from the perspective of others. Third, heroes are competent and confident. Fourth, heroes have a strong moral compass. Fifth, heroes have right skills. Sixth, heroes persist even in the face of fear, and keep working on their goals. The second result showed that Maleficent character is a heroine.

Keywords: hero, *Maleficent*, portrayal, witch

ABSTRAK

Film *Maleficent* (2014) adalah sebuah film yang disutradarai oleh Robert Stromberg dan ditulis oleh Linda Woolverton, film ini diadaptasi dari *Sleeping Beauty* versi animasi pada tahun 1959. Film *Maleficent* (2014) menceritakan tentang kerajaan Manusia dan kerajaan Moors yang tidak pernah berdamai. Penelitian ini fokus menganalisa penggambaran seorang wanita penyihir sebagai pahlawan melalui karakter Maleficent. Tujuan penelitian ini menganalisa jenis penggambaran karakteristik penyihir melalui karakter Maleficent di dalam film *Maleficent*. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan dua teori. Yang pertama teori penyihir oleh Julian Goodare dan yang kedua teori pahlawan oleh Kendra Cheery. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa, yang pertama karakter Maleficent dalam film *Maleficent* (2014) sebagai seorang penyihir yang mempunyai sisi jahat dan baik. Ada empat konsep penyihir seperti demonic, village, folkloric, dan envisioned. Berdasarkan keempat konsep tersebut, film *Maleficent* masuk dalam kategori penyihir folkloric. Ada tujuh elemen kepahlawanan, dimana karakter Maleficent sebagai seorang pahlawan didalam film *Maleficent* (2014). Pertama, orang yang menjadi pahlawan cenderung memperhatikan kesejahteraan orang lain. Kedua, pahlawan pandai

melihat sesuatu dari sudut pandang orang lain. Ketiga, pahlawan percaya diri. Keempat, pahlawan memiliki kompas moral yang kuat. Kelima, memiliki keterampilan. Keenam, pahlawan terus menghadapi ketakutan dan yang ketujuh, pahlawan terus mengerjakan tujuan mereka, bahkan setelah menghadapi beberapa kemunduran.

Kata kunci: *pahlawan, Maleficent, penggambaran, penyihir*

A. BACKGROUND

The concept of a *witch* is hard to pin down, and this is reflected in the complex inter-relationships of the word that was used for it. In English, for instance, the word *Witch* comes from the early medieval Old English words 'wicca' (masculine) and 'wicce' (feminine), pronounced 'witch-a' and 'witch-eh'. Both meant a witch and derived from the verb 'wiccian', to practise harmful magic or divination. The idea that 'wicca' meant 'wise one' is erroneous. In English, we also have the terms 'diviner', 'magician', 'necromancer', 'sorcerer/sorceress', and 'wizard'.

Some terms implied that the person must be bad, while others could be used for a person who was either bad or good in different circumstances. In English, a 'witch' was always bad; a 'magician' could be bad or good. Today we tend to think of a 'witch' as female, and then to use other words for men, such as 'warlock'. But, in the early modern period, a 'witch' could be either male or female.

However, English was unusual in not being a gendered language. Learned concepts were expressed in Latin. Based on the main Latin words for *Witch* were '*malefica*' (feminine) and '*maleficus*' (masculine), both formed from the medieval Latin word for 'witchcraft' - '*maleficium*'. This originally meant a harmful deed of any kind, but by the Middle Ages specifically meant harm done by magic.

Maleficent movie (2014) produced by Disney. Those is one of bigger the Company in America Country. Robert Stromberg as director in the *Maleficent* movie (2014) release on 4 June. There are some characterization in the movie such as Angelina Jolie as adult Maleficent, Charlto Copley as King Stefan, and Elle Fanning as Aurora. Maleficent is a powerful fairy who has magic power living in the Moors Kingdom, as a young girl, she meets and falls in love with a human peasant boy named Stefan, which later on betrays her and at her wings. Wanting to revenge the evil act of Stefan, she cursed his daughter. Maleficent said that on her sixteenth birthday, she will prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and fall into a deep sleep from which she will never be awaken unless she is being kissed by her true love. In the end, Maleficent returns to Moors Kingdom and its former glory, and Aurora is crowned queen with Philip by her side to unify the two Kingdoms.

The research questions in this study are: 1. What kind of witch characteristics are portrayed through *Maleficent* character in *Maleficent* movie (2014)? 2. How Maleficent character is portrayed as a hero in *Maleficent* movie (2014)? The research objectives are formulated according to the research questions above. Firstly, to find and determine a witch characteristics through Maleficent character in *Maleficent* movie (2014). Second, to find and determine a witch as a heroine in *Maleficent* movie (2014). Analyze the actions of a Witch in *Maleficent* movie especially her act that represent heroine conduct and the researcher also was analyze genre the good and evil sides. The researcher was focused the investigation on the development of witch and hero theories.

Aim to give the contribution to the next researcher or scholars who want to understand more about the theory and explanation about of a witch as a heroine on the movie. This

study will be the helpful reference for those who want to know more about *Maleficent* story from the perspective of a witch as heroine in *Maleficent* character version (2014).

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Literary tell about a story, it can be short or long story and the author can develop the situation, ideas and also expresses emotion. According to Robert and Jacobs (2006:2): "Literature is Composition that tells a story, dramatize a situation, expresses emotions, analyzes and advocates ideas". Literary tells about life, emotional, especially aspects of human experience. Ade and Okunoye said that, Literature thus summed up as permanent expressions in words (written or spoken), specially arranged in pleasing accepted patterns or forms. Literature expresses thoughts, feelings, ideas or other special aspects of human experiences.

Literature is representation from nature and life, and artistic forms of permanent interest. Henry van Dyke said that, literature consists of those writing which interpret the meanings of nature and life, in words of charm and power, touched with the personality of the author, in artistic forms of permanent interest. Also from C.S Lewis said that, literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become.

C.S Lewis said that, "Event in literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original: whereas if you simply try to tell the truth (without caring two pence how often it has been told before) you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever tried anything new". Robert Frost also stated that, Literature is defined as 'anything written', also said, Literature is a performance in words. Another view holds that literature has in it, a sense of entertaining display and provides pleasure in addition to the element of 'truth' involved (qtd. in Faizal Risdianto 2).

Poetry and novel are the examples of literary works. An author have to know about writing patterns, genres of the work and they also have to make interesting essay so, a reader can enjoy the works. Based on Collins English Dictionary "Literature is written serial such as poetry, novels, essay, etc. especially works of imagination characterized by excellence of style and expression and by themes of general or enduring interest" an author always need high imagination and creativity when writing some work.

Moody said that, literature springs from our in born love of telling a story, of arranging words in pleasing patterns, of expressing in words some special aspects of our human experience. Boulton defined literature from a functional perspective as the imaginative work that gives us recreation, recognition, revelation and redemption. Reiss also said that, after describing what he regarded as literature, summed up that literature is a permanent expression in words of some thoughts or feeling in ideas about life and the world. Also, literature is a human behavior commons to all societies, a means of communicating universally similar feelings, thoughts, and so forth which crosses ages and spaces (Reiss, 1992: 2).

1. Theory of Witch

The researcher uses two main theories there is hero theory by Kendra Cherry and witch theory by Julian Goodare.

1. Demonic Witch

Demonic witch means the witches who worship to devil. Their community do not belief in God, they give their souls to the devil. According to Goodare, Demonic

witch was in league with the devil. This view of witchcraft saw it essentially as a religious crime a type of heresy of false belief (Goodare 08).

2. Village Witch

The village witch is an evil figure, but on a smaller scale. Peasants were concerned about their health, their families and their farms, and they feared magical interference with these. Peasants had to work closely with their neighbours, bartering and sharing goods and tools, and this sometimes led to disputes and rivalries. When a peasant suffered an misfortune that was hard to explain, they sometimes feared that a witch had caused it, and they tended to ask themselves whether there was anyone who might have a grudge against them.

3. Folkloric Witch

Goodare explain that, “the folkloric witch did not live in the village; her residence, if known, was in a remote region, often a forest” (8-9). Folkloric witch is always *female*. She was not necessarily a *normal human* she was sometimes related to *giants* or *fairies*. She was always maleficent and sometimes her evil deeds resembled those of the village witch (killing and injuring livestock, for instance), but she also committed more fantastic malefices, especially the stealing and eating of children.

4. Envisioned Witch

Envisioned witch, means who someone have a prognosis. Julian Goodare said that, “Some people had trance experiences in which they felt themselves carried away to distant lands or to other worlds; sometimes they encountered strange beings there” (Goodare 09).

2. Theory of Hero

The researcher will use main theory by Kendra Cherry (1) as a Psychology Expert. He also has divided seven major characteristics ascribed to the hero, as follows:

1. People become heroes tend to be concerned with the well-being of others.

According to research, empathy and compassion for others are key variables that contribute to heroic behavior, people who rush in to help others in the face of danger and adversity to do because they genuinely care about the safety and well being of other people.

2. Heroes are good at seeing from the perspective of others.

Researchers suggest that heroes are not just compassionate and caring; they have a knack for being able to see things from the perspective of others. They can ‘walk a mile in another man’s shoes,’ so speak.

3. Heroes are competent and confident.

It takes both skill and self-confidence to rush in where others fear to tread. Researchers suggest that people who perform heroic acts tend to feel confident in themselves and their abilities. When faced with crisis, they have an intrinsic belief that they are capable of handling the challenge and achieving success no matter what the odds. Part of this confidence might stem from above-average coping skills and abilities to manage stress.

4. Heroes have a strong moral compass.

Heroes have two essential qualities that set them apart from non-heroes: they live by their values and they are willing to endure personal risk to protect those values. Their values and personal beliefs give them the courage and resolve to endure risk and even danger in order to adhere to those principles.

5. Having the right skills and training can make a difference.

Clearly, having the training or physical ability to deal with a crisis can also play a major role in whether or not people become heroes. In situations where would-be rescuers lack the know how or sheer physical strength to make a difference, people are less likely to help or are more likely to find less direct ways to take action. And in many cases, this approach is probably best; after all, people senselessly rushing into a dangerous situation can pose even more difficulties for rescue workers.

6. Heroes persist, even in the face of fear.

A person who rushes into burning building to save another person is not just extraordinarily brave; he or she also possesses an ability to overcome fear. Researchers suggest that heroic individuals are positive thinkers by nature, which contributes to their ability to look past the immediate danger of situation and see a more optimistic outcome cases, these individuals may also have a higher tolerance for risk. Plenty of caring and kind people might shrink back in the face of danger. Those who do leap into action are typically more likely to take greater risk in multiple aspects of their lives.

7. Heroes keep working on their goals, even after multiple setbacks.

Persistence is another quality commonly shared by heroes.. When faced whit a potentially life-threatening illness, people with heroic tendencies might focus on the good that might come from the situation such as a renewed appreciation for life or an increased closeness with loved ones.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

This study is a qualitative research that has an approach to analyze the main subject of the research. Qualitative research is narrative and descriptive analysis to interpret the qualitative data. According to Patton and Cochran, “qualitative research is characterized by its aims, which relate to understanding some aspect of social life, and its methods which (in general) generate words, rather than words, as data for analysis” (2).

2. Data Sources

The main data source for this present research is *Maleficent* movie (2014), which was published by Disney’s Company in 2014. The data were presented in the form of words, phrases, sentences, and dialogues that are related to the witch and heroine through the script of the *Maleficent* movie (2014). The researcher was taken data from chosen previous researchers, theories, journals which written by scholars, experts and also articles from internet sources.

3. Research Instruments

According to Eisner, the instrument for data collection and analysis is the researcher (qtd. in Hoepfl 49). Therefore, the instrument of this research is the researcher himself by using *hero* theory by Kendra Cherry, while *witch* theory by Goodare. Then, the researcher will use some other supporting discussion such as article and data. The researcher does the observation, collection, analysis, and classification the data directly himself.

4. Data Collection

There are some techniques to get the data, watching the movie, reading and understanding the script and scenes are the most appropriate data collection technique in this research. The data of this study are obtained from the following steps:

- a. Watching and understanding the movie, then the researcher will watch carefully every scene of the movie and try to understand the content of the Maleficent story.
- b. Choosing and selecting the data dealing with each problem of this research. In this step, the researcher will observe based on the movie, which is looking for the scenes and dialogues and makes it into the narrative stories that related and point out the topic in the main character in the movie.
- c. Classifying the required data to answer the statements of the problem. In this step, the researcher will answer the question from the research problems based on the data that have been collecting and selecting before.

5. Data Analysis

- a. After the data have been collected, the researcher tried to review data that have been collected.
- b. Classified the data that dealing with the statement of the problem.
- c. Analyzed the data that explained aspects of the main character's personality based on the movie, and based on the statement of the problems.
- d. The researcher analyzed the data that explained the characteristic of hero actions committed by the main character, Maleficent as the heroine in the movie.
- e. The conclusion. After the data has been analyzed, the researcher tried to drawing the conclusion.

6. Triangulation

In this section, the researcher used the main theory by Denzin in the 1970s (qtd. in Rugg 14) identified there are four basic types of triangulation.

The first, *Data Triangulation* it is mean to use of a variety of including time, data sources, space and persons, in a study. This type, findings can be weaknesses and corroborated in the data can be compensated by the strengths of other data, increasing the reliability and validity of the results, and the approach of data triangulation is used in many ways to strengthen conclusion about findings and to reduce the risk of false interpretations.

In this present research, the researcher used *Data Triangulation* to interpret the data based on some different data sources of different researchers the intention to get better results also validity. Therefore, are some different researchers of data sources about hero characterizations, with titled *A Hero as A Terrorist in V for Vendetta Movie* by Gratia and titled *Deconstructive Analysis of Maleficent Movie* by Irawati. Here, data triangulation refers to an activity to check the results of interpretation which are made by the present researcher in accordance with other sources to help in the interpretation of *Maleficent* movie by Linda Woolverton. Overall, the purpose of the data triangulation is to measure or to check the validity of this present qualitative research with all its result that is supported by some research data.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. A witch portrayal through Maleficent character in *Maleficent* movie (2014).

The final proof that the Maleficent is a witch female character in the *Maleficent* movie (2014), it is found in the dialogue of the movie at time 49:10.

Aurora : I know who you are.
Maleficent : Do you?
Aurora : You're my Fairy Godmother.

In the dialogue above, Aurora first meets the Maleficent when she gets to the age of 16 years. Aurora calling someone behind a big tree, but Maleficent reluctant to approach, a

few moments later the Maleficent appears with the crow that is Diaval. Aurora was shocked when he saw the Maleficent because of his physical appearance unlike humans usually, then Aurora claims that Maleficent is his fairy godmother. In this section, the Maleficent begins to fear if the secret or curse will be known by the Aurora. Aurora did not realize that he had been cursed by Maleficent when aurora was a baby. In this section, Aurora has mature and always want to find out about Maleficent.

Narrator: She was a fairy. And her name was Maleficent.

In the scene above, Maleficent has wings and can certainly fly with both wings are large, based on fairy tale stories in the story usually have wings. In this scene, Maleficent like the birds in the air. Maleficent then flies around the moors with great excitement, playing with the other fairies. Maleficent has supernatural powers that can carry it flying wherever it wants to go. Also, in this section Ella Purnell plays a young Maleficent.

*Maleficent : Good morning, Mr. Chanterella!
I love your cup!*

In the scene above, Maleficent flies then accost Mr. Chanterella in The Moors. Through the scene above, it can be seen how Maleficent was related to giants or fairies. Maleficent was very happy when she was a child in the kingdom of Moors, and based on the above scene shows that Maleficent communicate and greet each other with fairies in the kingdom of Moors. This proves that Maleficent has a close relationship with fairies, and is also close to the other creatures. According to Goodare, witch was sometimes related to giants or fairies.

Narrator : In a great tree on a great cliff in the Moors, lived one such spirit. She was a fairy.

In the scene above can be found that, Maleficent is in a forest filled with supernatural powers. The above narrative explains that the Maleficent lives in a large tree located in the kingdom of Moors. In the above scene can be seen Maleficent is lying while practicing the magic. Goodare said that in folkloric witch, usually lived in the forest. Through the above proof, it can be said that Maleficent belongs in the folkloric witch, because the Maleficent resides or lives in a forest.

2. Portrayed of Maleficent character as a Heroine in *Maleficent* movie (2014)

maleficent as a heroine that she has *tend to be concerned whit the well-being of others*. It was seen at time 01:15:52.

Maleficent : I will not ask your forgiveness because what I have done to you is unforgivable. I was so lost in hatred and revenge. Sweet Aurora, you stole what was left of my heart. And now I have lost you forever. I swear, no harm will come to you as long as I live. And not a day shall pass that I don't miss your smile.

The scene above, Maleficent explains to Aurora that how she is care and loving. Before kissing Aurora to awaken her from her enchanted sleep. Maleficent deeply regretted having cursed Aurora and in this scene Maleficent was crying and she missed her smile so much. Maleficent comes to Aurora then kisses Aurora's forehead, and Maleficent cries. Maleficent has sympathy for Aruora, so Maleficent regrets the curse she has done. In this scene, can be found Aurora return to normal life, after kissed by Maleficent. This is one proof that Maleficent as a hero is concerned with the Aurora.

*Maleficent : Aurora? Come here. Sit. There's something I need to tell you.
Aurora : What is it?
Maleficent : There is an evil in this world, and I cannot keep you from it.
Aurora : I'm almost 16, Godmother.*

In the above dialogue explains that Maleficent has sensitivity to Aurora. In this scene, Aurora does not know if she is exposed to the curse of Maleficent, and Maleficent explains to Aurora about the problems that occurred in the life. Maleficent has known what will happen to Aurora at the age of sixteen. Based on Cherry's theory, heroes are good at seeing things from the perspective of the other. In the above dialogue can be found that Maleficent is a heroine because it can see the angle of view Aurora, who is in danger.

Maleficent : *Arise and stand with me!* (Data 20)

In the above dialogue Maleficent very confident, when humans want to destroy the kingdom of Moors. In this scene, Maleficent calls out loud and then a few moments some giants come to help Maleficent in the fight against humans. One of Maleficent's goals against humanity is to defend the Moors from human greed.

Maleficent : *You have to **give it back**.*

Stefan : *Give what back?*

In the above dialogue, it was found that Maleficent told Stefan to restore the stone Stefan stole in the kingdom of the Moors. In this scene, Maleficent Found Stefan is hiding inside the cave, and this is first encounter time between Maleficent and Stefan. Based on the above dialogue, Maleficent has a good heart can be found at the time Maleficent ordered to return objects. Maleficent's goal to admonish Stefan is to preserve the integrity of the Moors Empire.

Maleficent : *I need you to be my wings.*

In the scene above can be found, Maleficent saves the life of a crow trapped in a trap nets, where the crows will soon be killed by a farmer. In the above dialogue can also be seen, Maleficent transforms the raven into a human and besides, Maleficent wants to make Diaval as its wing. Diaval apologizes to Maleficent for his words. At the end of this scene Diaval is willing to be anything what Maleficent wants, because Maleficent has saved Diaval's life from danger.

King Hendry : *A king does not take orders from a winged elf.*

Maleficent : *Go no further!*

In the above dialogue, Maleficent can be found in a state of being threatened with the arrival of humans who want to destroy the kingdom of Moors. Then Maleficent came and stopped their plans. In this scene, Maleficent looks brave and does not give up even though King Hendry continues to insult. In this scene also, appears King Hendry brought many troops to destroy the kingdom of Moors, they come with horses and war equipment. Kendra Cherry said that, "A person who rushes into a burning building to save another person is not just extraordinarily brave; he or she also possesses an ability to overcome fear."(1)

Narrator : *Maleficent brought down her wall of thorns.*

The above scene is one of the findings where Maleficent restores the kingdom of Moors as it used to be. In this scene, Maleficent has achieved its goal with hard work. He can make the kingdom of Moors back to light, because King Stefan is dead, so that no more human beings destroy the kingdom of Moors. The above dialogue indicates Maleficent as a heroine who has a goal and always does something good even when the situation is not good.

E. CONCLUSION

The first point, Maleficent as a witch woman who lives in the forest or under another name Moors. Maleficent in this story, has a connection with the magical creatures that are in Moors, and giants or fairies. In this movie also, Maleficent is not like normal human, it has horns and wings. Sometimes she uses witchcraft to help others, even cursing. Maleficent in this story is actually a good and very open. But she can be very evil when people or humans betray him.

The second point, Maleficent in this movie as a heroine. Based on the findings that researchers get, Maleficent has heroic traits. The first, Maleficent has a sense of sympathy towards others. She also has the ability to see the perspective of others. In this movie also, Maleficent has competent and confident. It can be found at the time of Maleficent splitting the Moors from human attacks. Maleficent also has a strong moral. Can be found when Maleficent communicates with creatures in the Moors even with Aurora. In this movie, Maleficent has a special skill that is self-defense and flying ability. In this story, Maleficent continues to get very dangerous problems. The indication that Maleficent as a hero is, she continues to strive to achieve his goals.

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